

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00872 200907 Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 T-03 OMB-01 GAC-01 IO-12 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00

INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 RSR-01 /127 W

----- 097662

O 200825 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6212

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0872

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR KU IZ

SUBJ: ARMED IRAQI ATTACK ON KUWAIT BORDER POST

REF: KUWAIT 2683 DEC 23, 1972, KUWAIT 706

1. AT 3:30 A. M. MAR 20 IRAQI FORCES OPENED FIRE ON KUWAITI
BORDER POST NEAREST IRAQI BASE AT UMM QASR. EARLY REPORTS
INDICATE AT LEAST FOUR OF TWENTY- PLUS MAN KUWAITI GARRISON
KILLED AND ABOUT 13 MISSING. FOUR WOUNDED HAVE FOUND THEIR
WAY TO KUWAIT.

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2. IRAQI ARTILLERY POUNDED NEST KUWAITI POLICE POST IMMEDIATELY SOUTH. THIS POST EVACUATED BY KUWAITIS DURING BOMBARDMENT BUT HAS SINCE BEE REOCCUPIED. ONE WOUNDED.

3. GENERAL MOBILIZATION OF KUWAITI ARMED FORCES HAS BEEN ORDERED. ARMOR INCLUDING TANKS AND ARMORED CARS HAS BEEN DEPLOYED ALONG LINE SIX MILES SOUTH OF IRAQI BORDER. ORDERS TO ARMY ARE TO HOLD THIS LINE. KUWAITI AIR FORCE HAS ORDERS TO SHOOT DOWN ANY IRAQI INTRUDING AIRCRAFT.

4. BRITISH AMB WILTON, WHO IS IN TOUCH WITH KUWAIT LIAISON TEAM (BRITISH), BELIEVES IRAQ ATTACK CAME IN RESPONSE LATEST KUWAITI MOVE IN DISPUTED BORDER AREA WHICH APPARENTLY WAS TO REINFORCE WITHIN PAST SEVERAL DAYS BORDER POST MENTIONED PARA ONE ABOVE. THIS POST OVERLOOKS IRAQI BATTERY INTENDED TO PROTECT SOUTHERN APPROACHES TO UMM QASR AND ROAD IRAQIS BUILDING TO IT KUWAITIS ALSO RASIED FLAG. THESE ACTIONS PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE KUWAITI UNHAPPINESS WITH FACT IRAQIS HAVE CONTINUED TO BUILD BATTERY INSTALLATION AND ROAD ON LAND KUWAITIS BELIEVE IS THEIRS. TODAY' S ATTACK IS CLEAR INDICATION IRAQIS INTEND TO KEEP WHAT THEY HAVE GRABBED.

5. NEXT MOVE IS UP TO KUWAITIS. YET TO BE SEEN WHETHER IT WILL BE DIPLOMATIC OR MILITARY. NO REASON AT MOMENT BELIEVE THERE WILL BE SERIOUS MILITARY ESCALATION OR THAT THERE ANY DANGER TO US CITIZENS IN KUWAIT. WE KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON THIS ASPECT OF SITUATION.
STOLTZFUS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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